SFY2015 QUALITY FIRST MODEL UPDATES

- Launched in 2009, Quality First (QF) overlays a systems approach to create equal access to and quality of early learning programs
- In 2012, the First Things First State Board approved recommendation to align Quality First, Quality First Child Care Scholarships, and Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) Scholarships
- Quality First updates will focus on TWO First Things First Board-approved areas:
 - 1. Access and affordability aligned with quality, and
 - 2. Incentivizing high quality for early care providers
- Quality First Model Updates effective beginning July 1, 2014 (FY15)
 - Alignment of Quality First Child Care and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
 - Eligibility, Rates, and Slots criteria of First Things First (FTF) Scholarships
 - A "Buy-in Option" for Quality First, and
 - T.E.A.C.H.



QUALITY FIRST COMPONENT OVERVIEW

CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS

- · Available for all programs in Full Participation
- · Determined by program size and Star Rating
- Higher quality programs receive higher reimbursement for each scholarship and higher number of scholarships

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

- · Amount determined by licensed capacity for children 0-5.
- · Used for purchasing materials, equipment and resources
- · Support professional development opportunities
- · Available annually throughout Quality First enrollment

standards.

their young children.

· Ratings will be made public

DHS Licensure Fee Assistance

COACHING

- · Individualized guidance and support
- · Monthly on-site visits
- · Targeted training and technical assistance

COACHING

SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- · Warm-line contact with expert consultants:
 - Mental Health
- Inclusion/Special Needs
- Child Health
- Instructional Support

COACIIII

T.E.A.C.H. EARLY CHILDHOOD ARIZONA SCHOLARSHIPS

STAR RATING

Recognizes quality early care and education

programs using a five-star system of quality

· Support parents in selecting quality setting for

- Formal Education: Child Development Associate or Degree in ECE or related field
- Educational Scholarships: Support for tuition, books, a travel stipend, and paid release time
- Compensation: Providing an incentive in the form of a bonus and/ or raise
- Commitment: Working at current program for a specific period

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

- Valid and reliable assessment tools focus on Environment and Adult-Child Interactions;
 - Environment Rating Scales
 - Classroom Assessment Scoring System
- Quality First Point Scale
- Annually for 1 and 2 Stars
- Every two years for 3—5 Stars

CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTATION

- Onsite and telephone guidance and consultation
- · Staff training on health and safety
- Nutrition and physical activities information
- · Connections to community resources
- Information for families



QUALITY FIRST COMPONENT OVERVIEW

CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS

- · Available for all programs in Full Participation
- · Determined by program size and Star Rating
- · Higher quality programs receive higher reimbursement for each scholarship and higher number of scholarships

- Amount determined by licensed capacity for children 0-5.
- · Used for purchasing materials, equipment and resources
- Support professional development opportunities
- Available annually throughout Quality First enrollment
- DHS Licensure Fee Assistance

- · Individualized guidance and support
- · Monthly on-site visits
- Targeted training and technical assistance

COACHING

SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Warm-line contact with expert consultants:
 - Mental Health
 - Inclusion/Special Needs
 - Child Health
 - Instructional Support

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

- Valid and reliable assessment tools focus on Environment and Adult-Child Interactions:
 - Environment Rating Scales
 - Classroom Assessment Scoring System
- Quality First Point Scale
- Annually for 1 and 2 Stars
- Every two years for 3-5 Stars

CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTATION

- Onsite and telephone guidance and
- · Staff training on health and safety
- Nutrition and physical activities
- Connections to community resources
- Information for families

STAR RATING

- Recognizes quality early care and education programs using a five-star system of quality standards.
- · Support parents in selecting quality setting for their young children.
- · Ratings will be made public

T.E.A.C.H. EARLY CHILDHOOD ARIZONA SCHOLARSHIPS

- Formal Education: Child Development Associate or Degree in ECE or related field
- · Educational Scholarships: Support for tuition, books, a travel stipend, and paid release time
- · Compensation: Providing an incentive in the form of a bonus and/ or raise
- · Commitment: Working at current program for a specific period



CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS

CURRENT

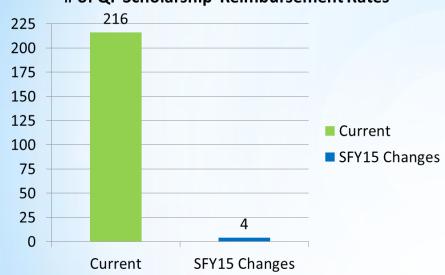
- Stand alone strategies Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) is a regional strategy funded in addition to Quality First (QF) base model
- II. Pre-K programs receive scholarship during rating process; QF programs must be rated before receiving scholarships
- III. Mentoring/Technical Assistance is a required component of Pre-K scholarships strategy
- IV. QF providers on wait list are eligible for scholarships
- V. All programs to apply for Pre-K scholarships are eligible to receive them
- VI. Pre-K Scholarships are paid at a flat rate across the state regardless of size, location, or star level
- VII. Pre-K Scholarships slots have no caps; Quality First Scholarships slots are capped at determined amounts
- VIII. Quality First full participation receive financial incentives for at star levels

SFY15 UPDATES

- I. QF and Pre-K will be aligned and re-branded as "Quality First Pre-K"
- II. All new programs must be rated prior to receiving scholarships
- III. Pre-K Mentoring/Technical Assistance is funded at discretion of Regional Councils
- IV. Programs on QF wait list will not be eligible for scholarships
- V. Early education programs at 3 to 5 star levels only will be eligible to receive QF Pre-K Scholarships
- VI. Rates will align with the cost of quality
- VII. Programs achieving higher star ratings will receive more scholarships
- VIII. 3 to 5 star programs will not be eligible for financial incentives

SCHOLARSHIPS RATES

of QF Scholarship Reimbursement Rates



Currently scholarships are based on a percentage of the 2010 DES Market Rate Survey (MRS) and are tiered based on star rating. Taking all variables into account, FTF currently reimburses Quality First Scholarships at 216 different rates:

- 6 DES Districts
- 3 separate provider types
- 3 age bands for scholarship eligible children
- 4 reimbursement tiers based on QF star level

Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships are paid uniformly at one flat rate of \$600 per month.

FY15 PROPOSED ANNUAL RATES

The proposed rates:

- Ensures that rates are aligned with the cost of quality
- 2. Simply the rate structure

		1 Star	2 Star	3-5 Stars
Centers	0-36 mos.	\$ -	\$7,969	\$11,300
	37-72 mos.	\$ -	\$6,000	\$ 7,300
Homes	0-36 mos.	\$ -	\$5,625	\$ 7,600
	37-72 mos.	\$ -	\$4,875	\$ 6,200

STAR RATINGS

CURRENT

- I. The Quality First Rating Assessments CLASS, ERS, and FTF Point Scale are tools utilized to measure the quality for early care programs
- II. Quality First full participation allows providers at all five star levels to receive scholarships on a tiered reimbursement scale
- III. No buy-in QF rating system existed

SFY15 UPDATES

- I. Re-branding of FTF's Pre-K Scholarships with Quality First will allow families to connect quality with early child care
- II. FTF will prioritize assessments of new QF enrollees to better the chances of receiving a star rating that is eligible to receive scholarships
- III. Providers will be able to buy-in to QF Rating Only package. Private businesses, philanthropists, tribes or other entities can sponsor additional QF sites.

T.E.A.C.H. EARLY CHILDHOOD ARIZONA SCHOLARSHIPS

CURRENT

 T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships are guaranteed and pooled by those scholarships that are deferred by Quality First programs

SFY15 UPDATES

I. Quality First sites will not be guaranteed a specific number of slots, but on a first priority status